

a plurality of message playback devices, each of said message playback devices comprising a storage device for storing messages and for playing selected ones of said messages through an output of said message playback device; and

a computer remotely located from said plurality of message playback devices and operable to generate and transmit control signals via said communication link for controlling at least one of said plurality of message playback devices;

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each of said plurality of message playback devices being adapted to receive said control signals via said communication link[and], said control signals comprising identification data for identifying selected ones of said plurality of message playback devices and list data for identifying selected ones of said messages for playback by respective ones of said selected message playback devices, each of said selected message playback devices being programmable to access [at least one of] said messages identified therefor in said list data from said storage device and to provide [said accessed message to said output in accordance with said control signals] said messages to said output until different ones of said messages are selected.

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3. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control signals are transmitted to all of said plurality of message playback devices, [said control signals comprising data relating to which of said plurality of message playback devices is to receive said control signals,] each of said plurality of message playback devices comprising a receiver circuit for receiving said control signals and a processing device for processing said list data to operate in accordance with said control signals if said [control signals are addressed] identification data corresponds to said message playback device.

4. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein [said data relates to subsets of said plurality of message playback devices,] each of said plurality of message playback devices [in said subset being operable in accordance with said control signals and said remaining ones of said plurality of message playback devices being] not identified in said control signals are operable to disregard said [control signals]list data.

In claim 7, line 3, rewrite "comprisng" as -comprising--.

In claim 9, line 1, delete "8" and insert -37--.

In claim 10, line 1, delete "8" and insert -37--.

In claim 12, line 1, delete "8" and insert -37--.

*B3*¹²₁₃. (Amended) A system as claimed in claim 12, wherein at least one of said screens comprises a script corresponding to at least one of said messages identified in said [list of said messages] at least one of said screens.

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(001) 30. (Amended) A programmable message delivery system for playing messages comprising:
a storage device for storing discrete, individually accessible messages;
a processor connected to said storage device and programmable to access at least one of said messages;
an input device connected to said processor;
a display device connected to said processor; and
at least one message output apparatus selected from the group consisting of a music on-hold-compatible telephone system, a public address system, a visual display device, an electronically-controlled sign, an audiovisual apparatus, a videoconferencing device, and a multimedia announcement device, said message output apparatus comprising an input and an output, said processor being programmable to generate at least one screen on said display device to display message data relating to each of said messages, said message data selected from the group consisting of a message titles corresponding to respective ones of said messages, message identification codes corresponding to respective said messages, and text of at least one of said messages, said processor being programmable to allow an operator to select at least one of said messages using said message data and said input device, to access said selected message via said

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storage device and to provide said selected message to said input of said message output apparatus [via said output circuit] for play through said output of said message output apparatus.

32. (Amended) A [remotely controllable] message playback device for playing selected messages from an optical disc, the message playback device being remotely controllable via a broadcast transmission system and comprising:

an optical disc system for playing at least one optical disc and providing signals generated therefrom to an output;

a first processor being programmed to generate control signals to control operation of said optical disc system;

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a receiver unit; and

a second processor connected to said first processor and to said receiver unit, said receiver unit being operable to receive command signals transmitted thereto from said broadcast transmission system and to provide said command signals to said second processor, said command signals identifying selected tracks on said at least one optical disc, said second processor being programmed to convert said command signals into corresponding [one] ones of said control signals to play said selected tracks on said optical disc system and to provide said corresponding ones of said control signals to said first processor until different said tracks on said at least one optical disc are selected.

In claim 34, line 1, delete "33" and insert -38--.

In claim 35, line 1, delete "33" and insert -38--.

Please add the following claims:

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36. (New) A programmable message delivery system for playing messages on message playback devices at one or more remote sites comprising:

a communication link;

a plurality of message playback devices, each of said message playback devices comprising a storage device for storing messages and for playing selected ones of said messages through an output of said message playback device; and

a computer remotely located from said plurality of message playback devices and operable to generate and transmit control signals via said communication link for controlling at least one of said plurality of message playback devices;

each of said plurality of message playback devices being adapted to receive said control signals via said communication link and being programmable to access at least one of said messages from said storage device and to provide said accessed message to said output in accordance with said control signals;

wherein said message playback device comprises an optical disc player, a processing device, a disc having tracks for storing said messages, and a receiver adapted to receive said control signals via said communication link, said control signals comprising commands for said processing device to control said optical disc player access to at least a selected one of said tracks and play a corresponding one of said messages.

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37. (New) A programmable message delivery system for playing messages on message playback devices at one or more remote sites comprising:

a communication link;

a plurality of message playback devices, each of said message playback devices comprising a storage device for storing messages and for playing selected ones of said messages through an output of said message playback device; and

a computer remotely located from said plurality of message playback devices and operable to generate and transmit control signals via said communication link for controlling at least one of said plurality of message playback devices;

each of said plurality of message playback devices being adapted to receive said control signals via said communication link and being programmable to access at least one of said

messages from said storage device and to provide said accessed message to said output in accordance with said control signals;

wherein said computer comprises a display device and is programmable to generate screens on said display device for guiding an operator to make choices selected from the group consisting of which of said messages are to be played, which of said plurality of message playback devices are to play said selected messages, a time of day when said control signals are to be transmitted to said message playback devices, a date on which said control signals are to be transmitted to said message playback devices, a sequence in which said selected messages are to be played, and how many times to repeat at least one of said selected messages in said sequence, and to generate said control signals to implement said choices via said message playback devices.

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38. (New) A remotely controllable message playback device for playing selected messages from an optical disc comprising:

an optical disc system for playing at least one optical disc and providing signals generated therefrom to an output;

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a first processor being programmed to generate control signals to control operation of said optical disc system;

a receiver unit; and

a second processor connected to said first processor and to said receiver unit, said receiver unit being operable to receive command signals transmitted thereto and to provide said command signals to said second processor, said second processor being programmed to convert said command signals into corresponding ones of said control signals and to provide said corresponding ones of said control signals to said first processor;

wherein said command signals are selected from the group consisting of a radio frequency signal and a wireline communication signal.

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39. (New) A system as claimed in claim 18, wherein each of said message playback devices comprises at least one message output apparatus comprising said output and selected from the group consisting of a music on-hold-compatible telephone system, an automated telephone